

C O U N T Y A D M I N I S T R A T O R



SUSAN S. MURANISHI
COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

April 24, 2018

Honorable Board of Supervisors
Administration Building
1221 Oak Street, Room 536
Oakland, CA 94612

Dear Board Members:

SUBJECT: AMENDMENTS TO THE 2018 ALAMEDA COUNTY LEGISLATIVE PLATFORM ADOPTING A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION ENSURE A COMPLETE, FAIR, AND ACCURATE COUNT FOR THE 2020 CENSUS

RECOMMENDATION

Amend the County's 2018 Legislative Platform to include the following recommendations made by your Board's Personnel, Administration, and Legislation (PAL) Committee at its April 16, 2018 meeting:

- Adopt a resolution to recommend the Federal Administration Ensure a Complete, Fair, and Accurate Count for the 2020 Census.

DISCUSSION

Adopt a resolution to recommend the Federal Administration Ensure a Complete, Fair, and Accurate Count for the 2020 Census

The decennial census enumerates each person in the United States. The results of the census apportion seats in the House of Representatives, guide legislative redistricting, and form the basis for allocating half-a-trillion dollars in federal assistance annually to states and other jurisdictions. The census also provides a social, demographic, and economic profile of the country's residents, informing decisions made by policy makers and businesses. Census results also are used to determine legislative districts for federal, state, and local government jurisdictions. The census is the responsibility of the federal government and conducted by the Census Bureau, a division of the U.S. Department of Commerce. Census Day, for the purposes of the count, is the first of April, though weeks of effort is necessary to complete as accurate a count as possible.

The resolution recommends a complete, fair and accurate count of all persons for the 2020 U.S. Decennial Census and calls for adequate funding for the Census. In addition, the resolution urges

the Federal Administration to appoint experienced leadership at the Census Bureau. Furthermore, it strongly urges the removal of the citizenship question from the census questionnaire. An inaccurate count impacts ALL public agencies and citizens.

For these reasons Nate Miley, Supervisor, District 4 and Chris Bazar, Director, Community Development Agency, recommended that the PAL committee SUPPORT this resolution.

For all the reasons stated above the PAL Committee recommends the adoption of this resolution by your Board.

Very truly yours,



Susan S. Muranishi
County Administrator

Enclosure

SSM:LL:sh/bl

cc: Affected County Agencies/Departments
CAO Analysts
State and Federal Legislative Advocates

THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS OF THE COUNTY OF ALAMEDA,
STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RESOLUTION NUMBER 2018-_____

**A RESOLUTION TO RECOMMEND THE FEDERAL ADMINISTRATION ENSURE A
COMPLETE, FAIR, AND ACCURATE COUNT FOR THE 2020 CENSUS**

WHEREAS, the U.S. Decennial Census (Census) is a constitutionally mandated count of every person living in the United States of America -- a fundamental part of our nation's identity, where everyone counts equally; and

WHEREAS, within two years, the 2020 Census - our nation's largest, most complex peacetime undertaking - will be fully underway, with a "Census Day" on April 1, 2020; and

WHEREAS, the Census is one of the most important events in the American political process as it determines representation of the people in Washington D.C., and dictates the distribution of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local funding; and

WHEREAS, hundreds of billions of dollars in federal, state, and local government funds are distributed based on population, affecting such County and city services as transportation, housing, education, healthcare, and many other vital services; and

WHEREAS, the importance of a successful decennial census to the County and its constituents cannot be overstated, the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors stands ready to work with the U.S. Census Bureau and other stakeholders to achieve a full, fair and accurate count of every person residing in Alameda County; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda and the State of California have historically been undercounted and additional outreach efforts are necessary to ensure that every resident in the County and State are counted; and

WHEREAS, to achieve a fair and accurate count, the Census Bureau must receive adequate funds to effectively implement a range of data collection methods, including new internet and telephone response options, field visits, and the traditional paper questionnaire; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau's Integrated Partnership and Communications (IPC) Program plays a vital role in the success of the Census by maximizing self-response and reducing follow-up; and the IPC program leverages resources and experience in the communications industry with partnerships and paid advertising contracts; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors is concerned that the Federal Administration's budget request does not include much-needed additional funding for the IPC Program, which is essential to keeping long-term census costs in check, given the growing barriers to a successful census, and for an expanded field presence in light of the lower projected self-response rate; and

WHEREAS, changes to the census form at this late stage of the 2020 Census planning will jeopardize the validity of the operational tests that already have been conducted, put into question the outreach and partnership strategies that have been designed around different content, and would require changes in training and execution of operations; and

WHEREAS, approximately 26% of Alameda County's population live in hard-to-count neighborhoods, and are at risk of being missed in the 2020 Census, which would harm County programs for the most vulnerable populations and significantly undermine equal representation; and

WHEREAS, more than 17 state attorneys general and 7 cities have filed suit against the Federal Administration, alleging the inclusion of a citizenship question in the census questionnaire violates the constitutional requirement of "actual enumeration" of every person in every state, every 10 years; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda is concerned that a question about citizenship on the 2020 Census questionnaire will result in an extreme undercount of individuals who are afraid to disclose their citizenship status, especially in the current environment of increased immigration enforcement, threatening the Census Bureau's ability to conduct an inclusive enumeration that accurately and fully reflects the diverse fabric of America and meets the constitutional mandate of counting *all* persons residing in the United States; and

WHEREAS, the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors are also concerned that the Census Bureau Director job remains vacant and the President has not put forth a nonpartisan nominee who meets the statutory requirements of significant scientific and management experience to lead the Census Bureau at this critical time; nor has the Administration considered a qualified, experienced, and nonpartisan candidate to serve as Deputy Director; and

WHEREAS, the Census Bureau has long benefited from exceptional leadership, helping the agency carry out its mission of serving as the leading source of quality data about the nation's people, and its economy; and

WHEREAS, the American people must have confidence that the Census Bureau's leaders will uphold its core principles of accuracy, protecting confidentiality, sharing expertise, and conducting its work openly and fairly, without regard to partisan interests, and be guided by a commitment to scientific objectivity and excellence and research-based innovation,

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors urges the federal Administration to work closely with Congress:

- a) to ensure a minimum funding level of \$4.735 billion for the Census Bureau for FY 2019;
- b) to provide for more Partnership Specialists who will engage, educate, and mobilize states, localities, and community based organizations in support of the census; and
- c) to provide an expanded communications campaign that targets harder-to-reach communities, includes more 'in-language' advertising, and addresses growing public fears about cyber-security; and an expanded field "footprint" through 20 percent more local census offices;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors strongly urges the Secretary of Commerce to remove the citizenship question from the census questionnaire and the County's Congressional delegation to support legislation, such as the Every Person Counts Act of 2018, that ensures a fair and accurate count in the 2020 Census;

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors urges the Federal Administration to nominate and appoint qualified candidates for the Census Bureau Director and Deputy Director positions who will continue the tradition of nonpartisan, experienced and strong leadership.

THE FOREGOING was **PASSED** and **ADOPTED** by a majority vote of the County of Alameda Board of Supervisors this ____ day of May, 2018, to wit:

AYES:

NOES:

ABSENT:

ABSTAIN:

By: _____
Supervisor Wilma Chan
PRESIDENT, BOARD OF SUPERVISORS


ATTEST:

Anika Campbell-Belton
Clerk of the Board of Supervisors
County of Alameda, State of California

By: _____
Deputy

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Donna R. Ziegler, County Counsel

By: 
Andrea L. Weddle
Chief Assistant County Counsel